GROUNDLESS

グランドレス

―死神の瞳―

3

影待蛍太

KEITA KAGEMACHI
ACTION COMICS

カバーデザイン＝楠目智宏＋永井さやか（arcoinc）

ACTION COMICS

影待蛍太

GROUNDLESS グランドレス

3

GROUNDLESS
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―死神の瞳―

双葉社

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3

影待蛍太

KEITA KAGEMACHI

ACTION COMICS

CONTENTS

DATA:

#10. THOSE BULLETS INVOKE FEAR AND COURAGE

#11. THE DAY I BECAME A SOLDIER

#12. THE EYE OF THE GRIM REAPER (PART 1)

#12. THE EYE OF THE GRIM REAPER (PART 2)

#13. OKAY, TAKE A REST!

SECRET

#10. THOSE BULLETS INVOKE FEAR AND COURAGE

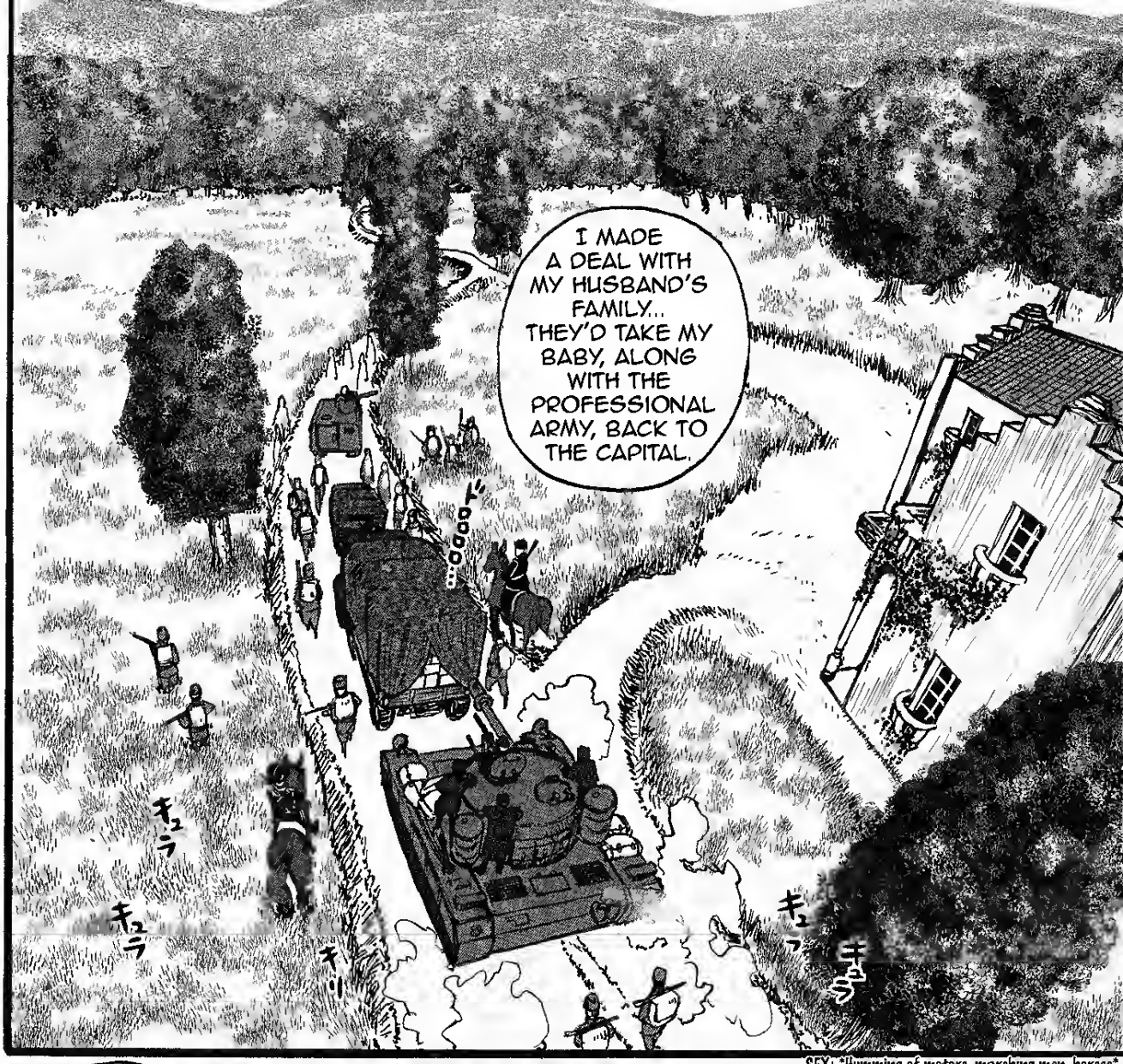
SFX: "Heavy breathing, sobbing"

SFX: "Rapid heartbeat"

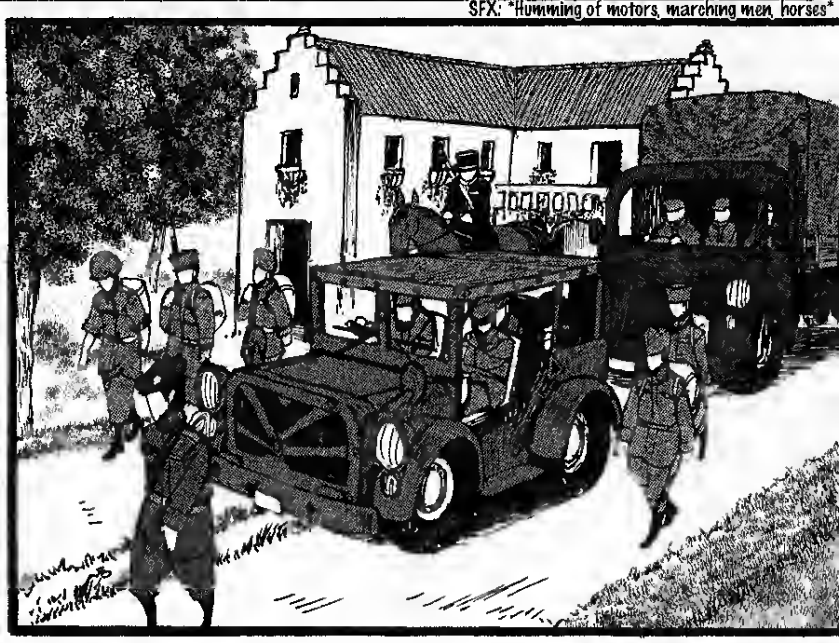
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SFX: *Slow swing*
I have no reason to live...

SFX: "Muffled shouting"
SFX: "Grab"
SFX: "Work da bolt"
ROSA, LISTEN.

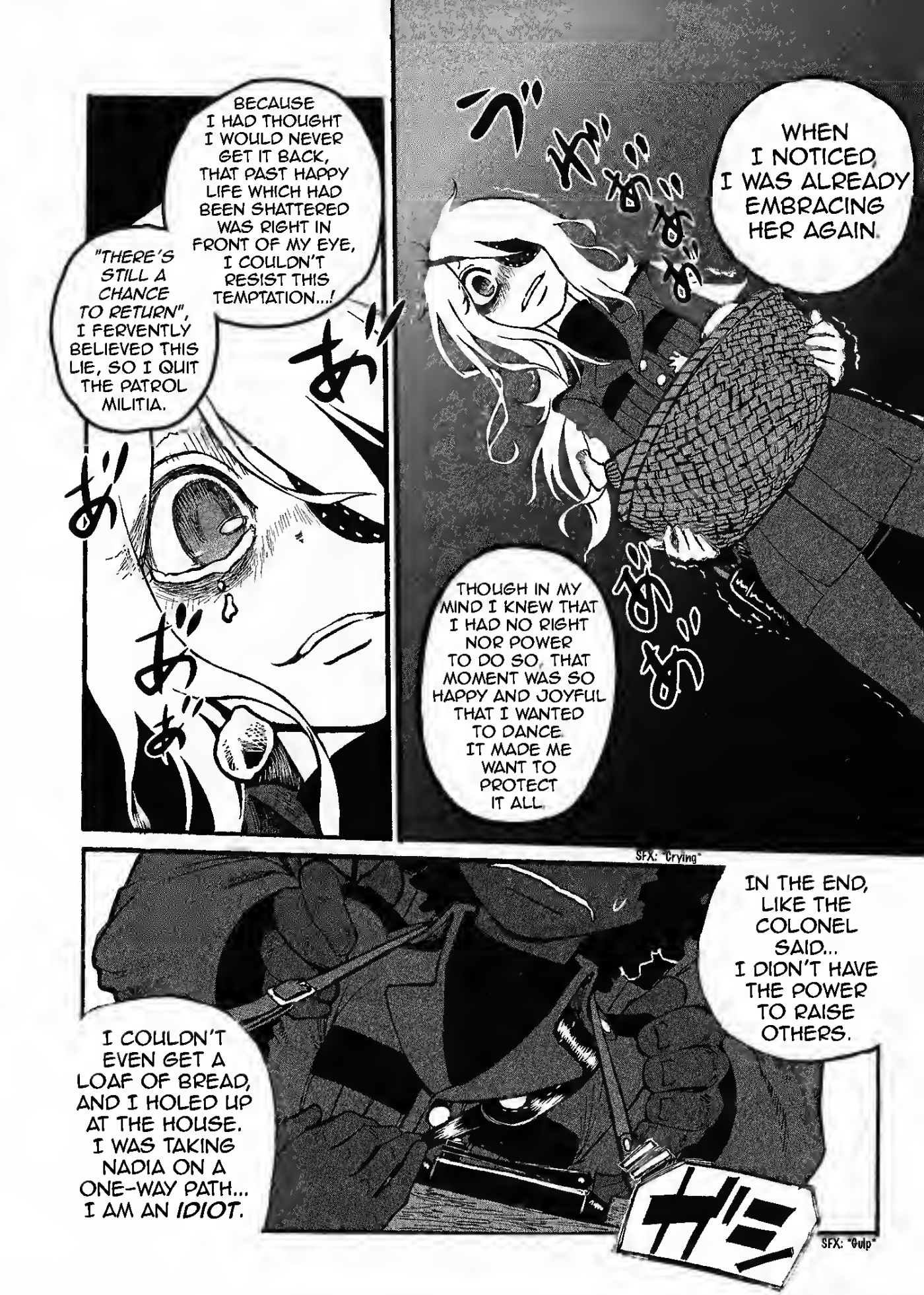
YOU NEED TO GET TO THE DIVERSION SQUAD AND GIVE THEM MY ORDERS. THEY NEED TO FIND A WAY TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE CHURCH GENERATOR. I WANT TO GET THE LIGHTS ON AND TURN THIS ENTIRE AREA INTO SOPHIA'S KILL ZONE.
Eh, me?
WHILE THE SNIPER'S HERE TO HELP US, THE OUTSIDE IS PITCH BLACK. AT THIS RATE, UNLESS WE LET THE ENEMY GATHER AROUND THIS BUILDING, WE WON'T GET ANY MORE HELP.
THE WAREHOUSE LOOKS WEIRD, BE CAREFUL.
IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, THEN EVEN IF WE HAVE THE SNIPER, WE'RE NOT ANY BETTER OFF. CAN YOU DO IT?
...BABY?



SFX: *Humming of motors, marching men, horses*



I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE SO SUCCESSFUL IN REVENGE, AND NEVER THOUGHT I COULD GET HER BACK...
AND I LOST MYSELF IN BATTLE
SO I WANTED TO PROVE THAT I AM NOT POWERLESS AS HE SAID
TRUTHFULLY, I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER HOLD THAT CHILD AGAIN. ...BECAUSE THAT OFFICER SAID I HAD NO POWER...
WHEN I SAW NADIA BY MY SIDE AGAIN,
I ALSO SAW THE LIVES I'D DESTROYED, OF THE COLONEL AND THE OTHER LIBERATION CITIZENS, IN A WAY THAT COULD NOT BE UNDONE.
EMBRACING NADIA WITH THESE BLOOD-STAINED HANDS WHILE TRYING TO PRETEND NOTHING HAD HAPPENED, AND RESTARTING LIFE ANEW... *THAT* WAS TRULY TERRIFYING.


BECAUSE I HAD THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER GET IT BACK, THAT PAST HAPPY LIFE WHICH HAD BEEN SHATTERED WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYE, I COULDN'T RESIST THIS TEMPTATION...!
"THERE'S STILL A CHANCE TO RETURN", I FERVENTLY BELIEVED THIS LIE, SO I QUIT THE PATROL MILITIA.
WHEN I NOTICED, I WAS ALREADY EMBRACING HER AGAIN.
THOUGH IN MY MIND I KNEW THAT I HAD NO RIGHT NOR POWER TO DO SO, THAT MOMENT WAS SO HAPPY AND JOYFUL THAT I WANTED TO DANCE. IT MADE ME WANT TO PROTECT IT ALL.
SFX: "Crying"
IN THE END, LIKE THE COLONEL SAID... I DIDN'T HAVE THE POWER TO RAISE OTHERS.
I COULDN'T EVEN GET A LOAF OF BREAD, AND I HOLED UP AT THE HOUSE. I WAS TAKING NADIA ON A ONE-WAY PATH... I AM AN *IDIOT*.
SFX: "Gulp"

「援護要請」
Request Covering
「注視しろ」
Watch
「こいつ」
This
I CAN'T DO IT...! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...!
YOU WANT TO SHOOT IT OUT WITH THOSE OUTSIDE? THAT'S EVEN MORE IMPOSSIBLE. GO DO WHAT'S MORE SUITED TO YOU.
JUST NOW I USED HANDSIGNS TO REQUEST COVERING FIRE. TRUST THAT HERO IN YOUR HEART AND GO.
SFX: *Head pat*
THIS IS A PROTECTION CHARM. IF YOU HAVE THIS, THEN THE SNIPER SQUAD AND DIVERSION SQUAD WILL KNOW YOUR POSITION.

...ABOUT THE BABY, I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HELP ANY...
BUT SOPHIA, I THINK IT'S WRONG OF YOU TO DISMISS SNIPING OUT OF HAND.
TRUE, FOR NORMAL PEOPLE THE ACT OF MURDER IS AN ABSOLUTELY EVIL DEED.
ESPECIALLY SO FOR SNIPERS. THEIR TARGETS ARE THOSE WHO HOLD NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS, TARGETS THAT NEVER KNEW THEY EVEN EXISTED.
AND A SNIPER'S MISSION REQUIRES A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TYPE OF SOLDIER, ONE THAT DOESN'T HOLD A PSYCHOLOGICAL BURDEN.

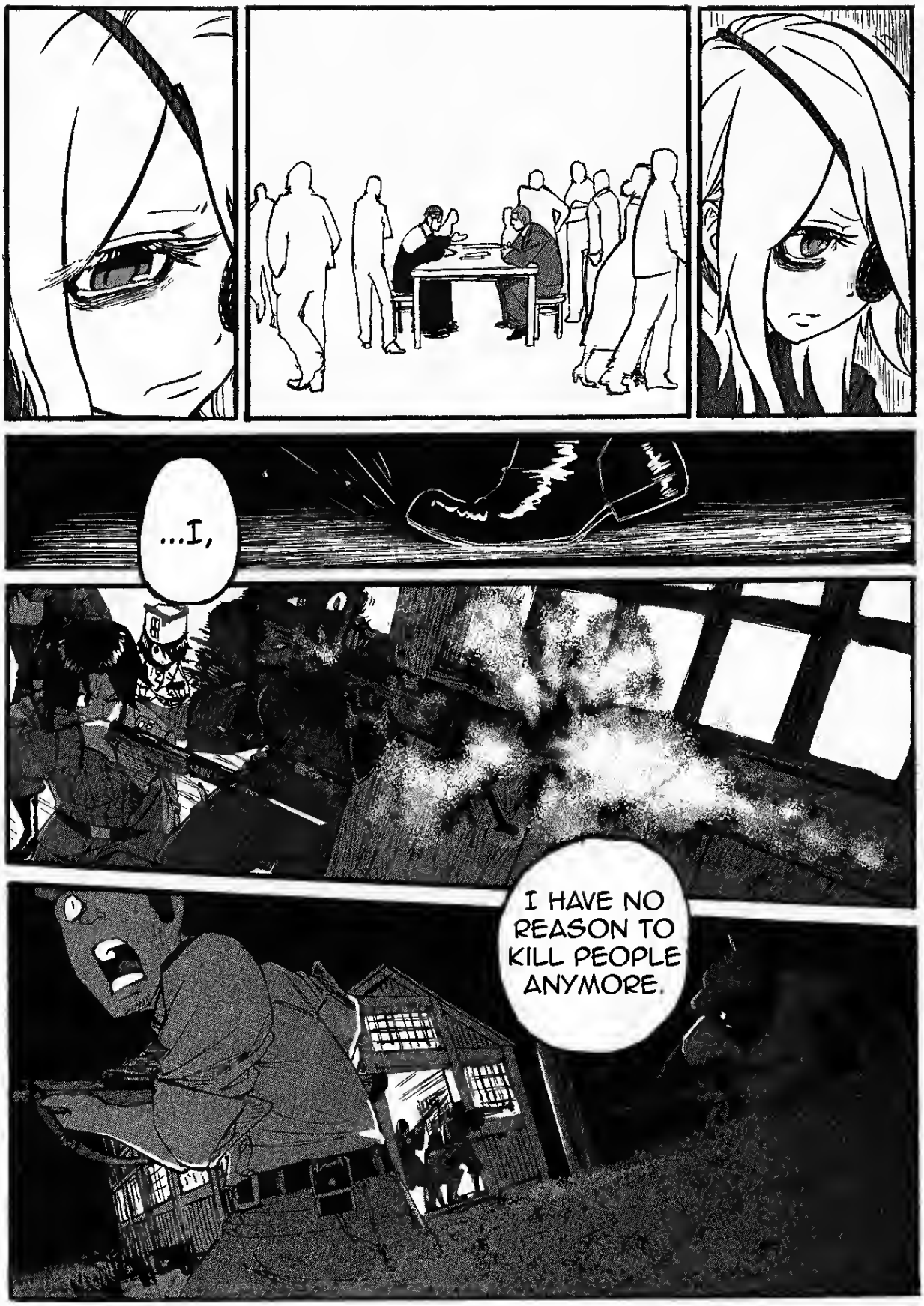
SNIPING IS PROBABLY THE MOST TORTUROUS JOB IN THE INFANTRY.
IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT YOU'D HAVE THOSE CONCERNS AFTER YOUR FIRST MISSION.

OK
WE HAVE A REASON TO FIGHT... OR RATHER, WE THOUGHT UP MANY JUSTIFICATIONS FOR KILLING OTHERS.

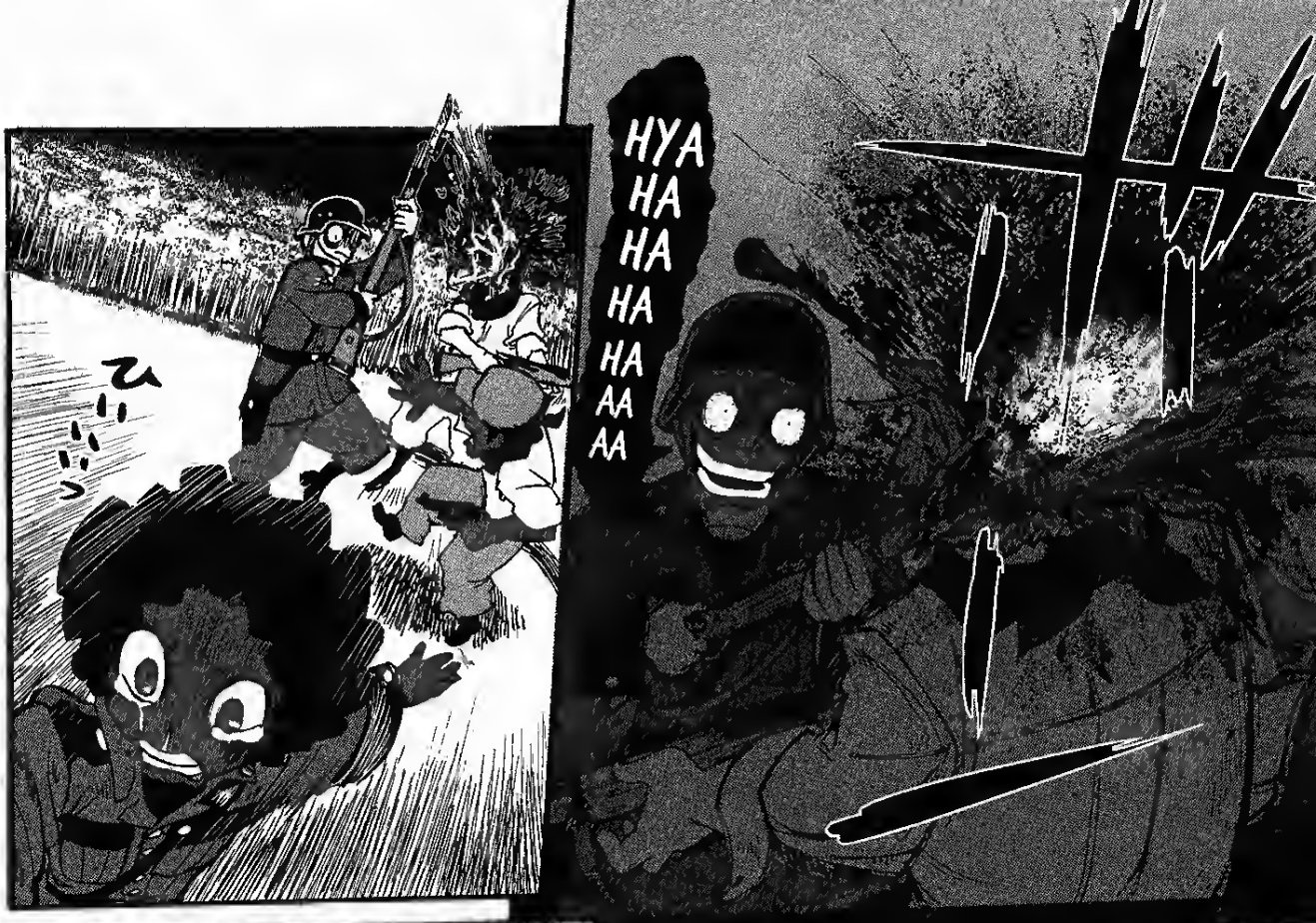
Grenade
AS NORMAL SOLDIERS WE WON'T BE IN AS MUCH PAIN AS YOU ARE RIGHT NOW... THOUGH WE WILL KILL SOME PEOPLE AND FEEL SOME PAIN...

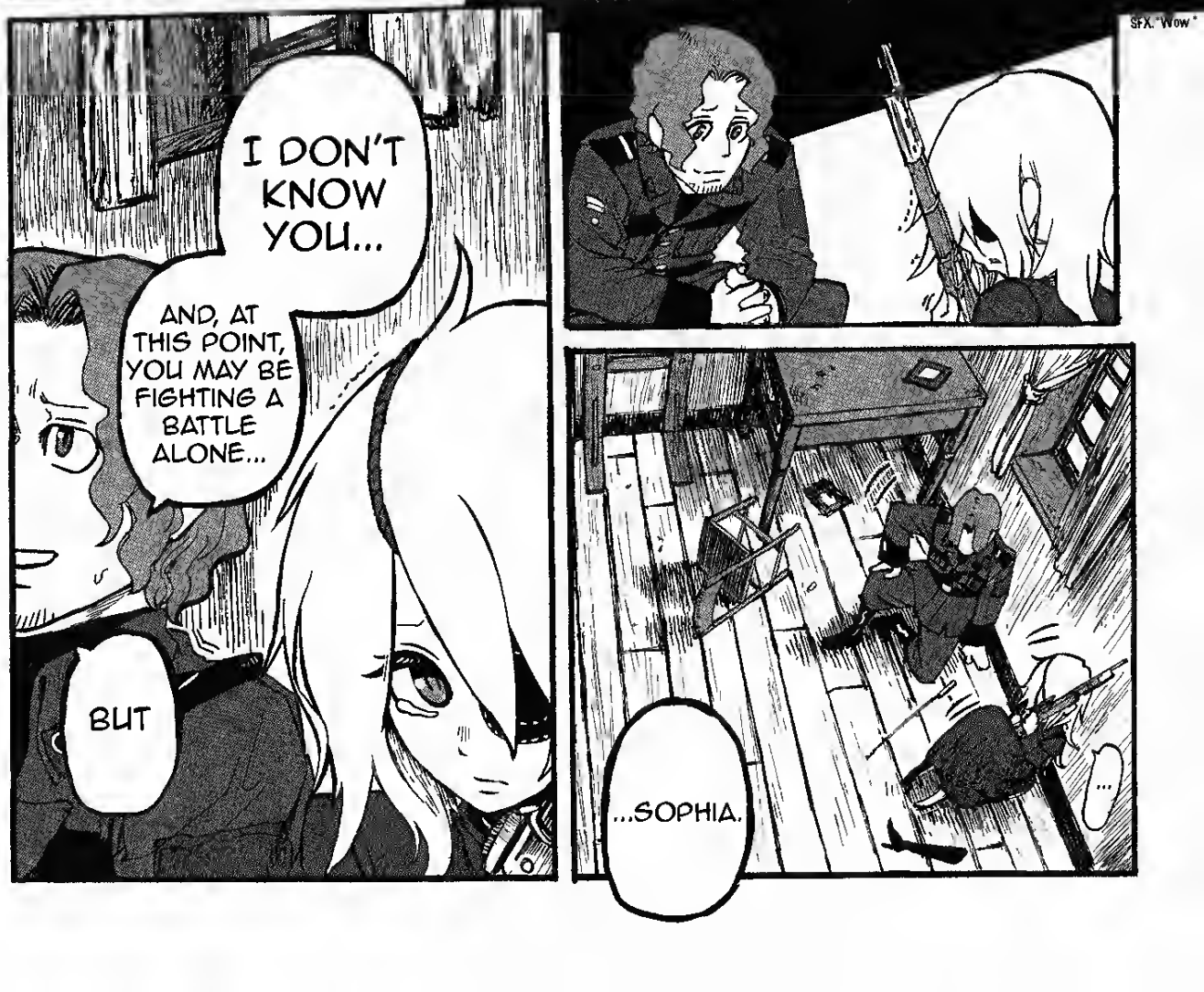
FOR FAMILY... FOR FRIENDS... FOR EXCUSES...
NO MATTER HOW SMALL, ANY WORTHLESS REASON MAKES IT ACCEPTABLE.
PEOPLE GATHER THEIR INDIVIDUAL REASONS TOGETHER TO CREATE A LARGE ENOUGH REASON. FOR THE BETTERMENT OF SOCIETY, WE HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE MOTIVATION TO MURDER.

I THINK YOUR REVENGE IS A PERFECTLY VALID MOTIVATION FOR A SOLDIER.
SFX: *Tink!*
FOR THAT REASON YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE AND PROTECTED THE CITY, DIDN'T YOU?
IF YOU REGRET YOUR ACTIONS, THEN WHAT OF MY FRIENDS FIGHTING NOW? WHERE CAN THEY PLACE THEMSELVES?

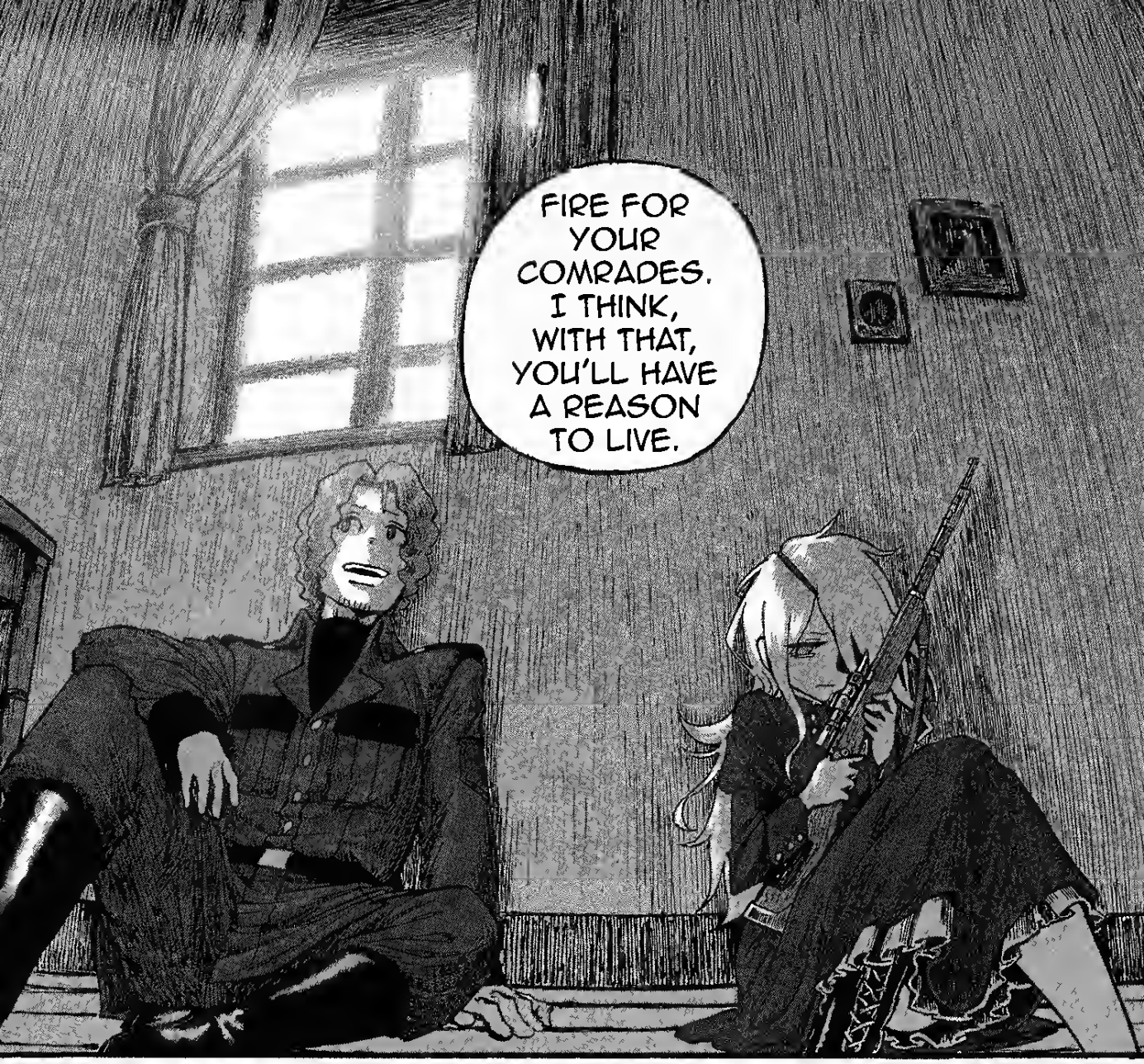

...I,
I HAVE NO REASON TO KILL PEOPLE ANYMORE.

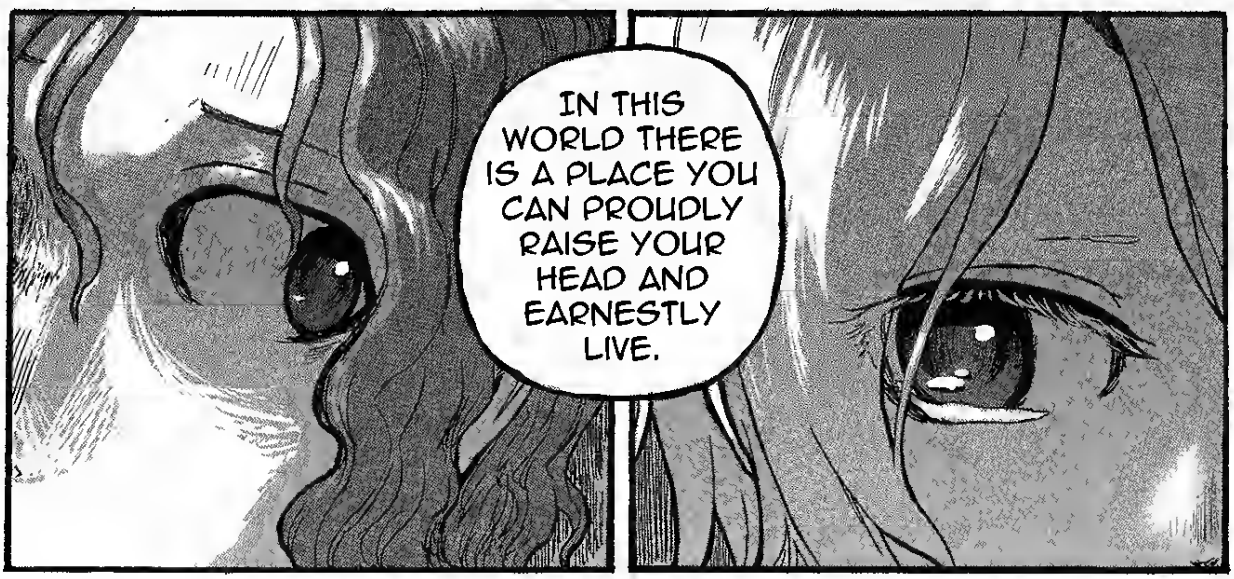
"REVENGE" NO LONGER EXISTS AS A MOTIVATION.
SFX: "Gasping"
HEH HEH HEH
EVEN A SOLDIER, IF HE KILLS UNCONTROLLABLY,
SFX: "Creepy laugh"
I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THAT...
SFX: "Click..."
IS JUST A NORMAL PSYCHO.


HYA HA HA HA AA AA

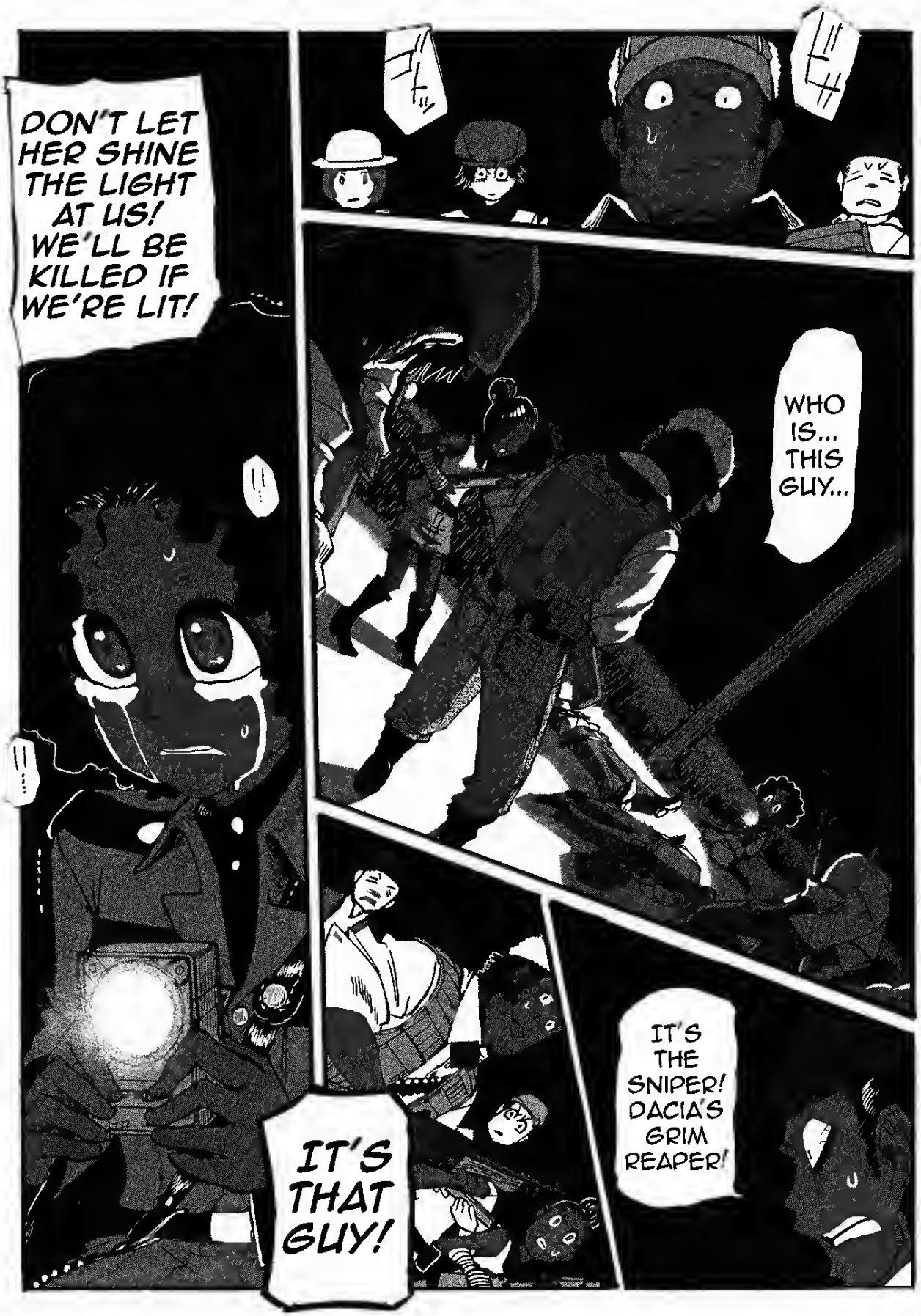

SFX. "Wow"
I DON'T KNOW YOU...
AND, AT THIS POINT, YOU MAY BE FIGHTING A BATTLE ALONE...
BUT
...SOPHIA.
...

WE WERE LIKE YOU, WE TRAINED FOR A FEW MONTHS AND BECAME CARING COMRADES.
AND WE FOUGHT ON THE SAME BATTLEFIELD, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, AND LEFT A PROUD RECORD.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE WERE PARTNERS WHO ONCE PLACED OUR LIVES IN EACH OTHER'S HANDS.
SOPHIA... DON'T THINK TOO DEEPLY.


FIRE FOR YOUR COMRADES. I THINK, WITH THAT, YOU'LL HAVE A REASON TO LIVE.


IN THIS WORLD THERE IS A PLACE YOU CAN PROUDLY RAISE YOUR HEAD AND EARNESTLY LIVE.

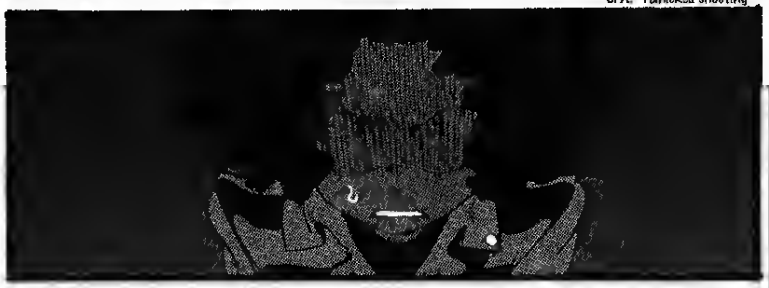
OR AT LEAST FIRE AT OTHERS FOR ME. DO YOU FEEL THERE IS ANY REASON MISSING?
AND YOU HAVE ME, SO YOU HAVEN'T LOST EVERYTHING.
WELL, SOPHIA?


DON'T LET HER SHINE THE LIGHT AT US! WE'LL BE KILLED IF WE'RE LIT!
WHO IS... THIS GUY...
IT'S THE SNIPER! DACIA'S GRIM REAPER!
IT'S THAT GUY!

ID-
IDIOT, STOP!
YO!!...

SFX: *Panicked shouting*

SFX: *Thwack!*



SFX: *Crunch*

Didn't I just receive help!? That means they're protecting me, right!?

If I don't start running, nothing will happen!
Being afraid is not acceptable! Run fast! I need to play my role!
!

SFX: *Click...*
DOESN'T MATTER... JUST ALERT THE ALLY, THEN SHUT IT OFF. WE NEED TO MAKE CONTACT QUICKLY.
I DO, BUT WE'LL EXPOSE OUR POSITION.
BOY, YOU HAVE A LIGHT?
SOMEONE'S COMING! THE LIGHT LOOKS LIKE AN ALLY!
...MI,
MISTER NIKOLAI, THAT WOUND!?
AH
DON'T WORRY, THIS IS JUST A SCRATCH... HEHEHE...

#11. THE DAY...

/AK/ SCANS

HTTP://AK-SCANS.WIKIA.COM/

/AK/ SCANS IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE (MOSTLY TRANSLATORS) TO HELP OUT ON THE MANY PROJECTS WE DO.

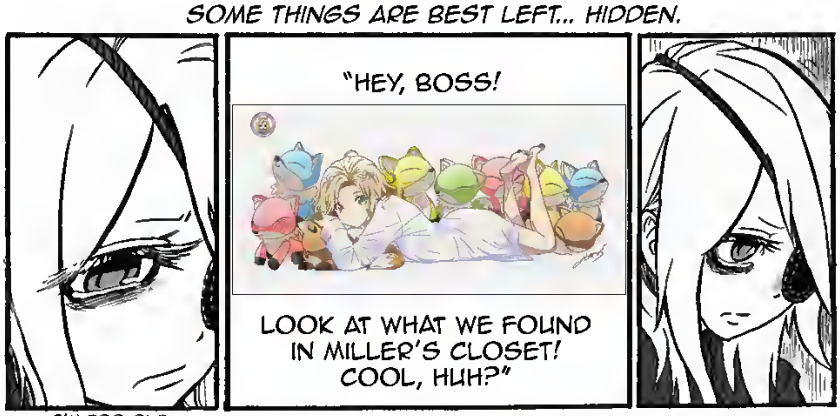
WE NEED HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING:

-YUKARI'S TANK CORNER EP. 7+
-RE:MONSTER
-GUNNERS
-CAT SHIT ONE '80
-GIRLS UND PANZER MOVIE
(SOON! MORE TECHNICAL HELP THAN ANYTHING!)
-AND MUCH MORE!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE /AK/ WIKI **OR** IN ONE OF THE MANY /AK/-RELATED THREADS ON /A/ OR /K/!

-/AK/ STAFF

SOME THINGS ARE BEST LEFT... HIDDEN.



SCANS: **SWISS MOMO**
TRANSLATOR: **GITAMI**
CLEANING, TYPESETTING, AND EDITING: **LARDAGUS**
QA: **PROOFREADERANON AND /AK/ ANONS**
(THANKS!)